

Fig. 5 is a flow chart of a check out process.

Fig. 6 is a flow chart of a sign-in/registration process.

Fig. 7 illustrates a representative HTML snippet encoded in an exemplary vendor page to facilitate a purchase.

Fig. 8 illustrates a representative merchant input form used to create the snippet.

Fig. 9 illustrates a representative transactional architecture.

Fig. 10 illustrates an exemplary product page.

Fig. 11 illustrates an exemplary web page for a vendor whose catalog of product offerings is hosted by the multi-vendor Internet commerce system network.

Fig. 12 illustrates an exemplary web page for a vendor who has no desire to develop a catalog.

Fig. 13 illustrates a universal shopping cart.

Fig. 14 illustrates an exemplary gift registry.

Fig. 15 illustrates an exemplary web page presented by the Multi-Vendor Central System.

Fig. 16. illustrates an exemplary shopping cart web page associated with a vendor type X.

Fig. 17 illustrates an exemplary merchant input.

Fig. 18 is a flow chart of the steps taken by a vendor to become e-commerce enabled.

Fig. 19 is a flow chart of the steps taken by an operator of the Multi-Vendor Internet Commerce System.”

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4-5 and 15-18. Please amend claims 11 and 13 and add claims 19-26, as follows:

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

11. (Once Amended) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of Claim 1, wherein the MV-CPU includes gift registry logic for receiving items from various websites that have been selected by the consumers to be searchably placed into [the] various gift registries.

13. (Once Amended) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of Claim 1, wherein the MV-CPU includes sign-in logic for presenting [the] an authentication page to the consumer and performing the authentication of known users or registration of new users.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 6, wherein the consumer database and MV-CPU provides the consumer a single payment process to purchase a plurality of items from a plurality of the plurality of vendors.

20. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 19, wherein the single payment process is a single checkout process.

21. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 6, wherein a consumer credit card number is stored in the consumer database, wherein the stored consumer credit card number allows purchases from the plurality of vendors.

22. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 1, wherein the MV-CPU is able to charge consumers directly and notify the plurality of vendors of purchases.

23. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 1, wherein the MV-CPU obtains payment and shipping data from the consumers and forwards the data to the plurality of vendors.

24. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 1, wherein the MV-SD contains tax tables, discount schedules, and shipping costs from the plurality of vendors

25. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 1, wherein the MV-CPU forwards consumer shipping data to the plurality of vendors.